

Appl. No. 09/738,766
Amendment in response to
Office Action mailed 07/15/2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 06/18/2003, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap B.V. Fibre Neth ("Van der Knaap") and Substrate Research for Roses: Evaluation of Different Types of Coir, Verbondsnieuws vol. 43 (20): English Abstract, Dutch 1999 (Verbondsnieuws)" in view of U.S. Patent no. 3,990,180 to Bunting; rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap and Verbondsnieuws further in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,942,029 to Spittle; rejected claims 3, 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap and Verbondsnieuws further in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,331,908 to Loeb; rejected claims 4, 7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap further in view of Spittle; rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap and Verbondsnieuws further in view of U.S. Patent no. Des325,714 to Karhiniemi; rejected claims 8, 9, 12-14 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. Des325,714 to Karhiniemi further in view of Loeb; and rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Van der Knaap further in view of Spittle. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended. New claims 26-29 have been added. Reconsideration of the amended claims having regard to the following comments is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the new and amended claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

The prior art considered that at least 7 months was required to develop the coniferous tree seedling roots so that the plug used in reforestation would be sufficiently hardy. The present inventor has found that by applying the claimed method, to produce the claimed coniferous tree seedling plug, which had not previously been done, the seedling plug is useful at a considerably younger age,

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which has important benefits due to the short planting season for such seedlings.

It is submitted therefore that the amended claims are allowable, and
issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to
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Name of Person Signing Certification

Bruce M. Green January 15, 2004